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# PROVIDER BULLETIN

**PB 05-08**

## THIS ISSUE

### Chiropractic Consultant Program

**TO:**  
Chiropractors in Washington  
ST  
Self Insured Employers

**CONTACT:**  
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**Effective June 1, 2005**

**Provider Bulletins/Updates  
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[http://www.lni.wa.gov/hsa/Prov  
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## Purpose

This bulletin **replaces Provider Bulletin 03-06 "Chiropractic Consultation Program."** It describes the department's policies on consultation referrals for the Chiropractic Consultation Program (second opinion consultations) and department rating examinations. It applies to both State Fund and self-insured claims.

This Bulletin is in effect for dates of service on or after June 1, 2005.

### **Prior Authorization is not required to obtain second opinion consultations for claims meeting the referral conditions below.**

The attending doctor may make a referral for a second opinion consultation directly to a consultant **without** prior authorization from the State Fund or a self-insured employer under the conditions shown below. However, attending doctors must inform the claim adjudicator of pending consultations in their progress notes by giving the name of the consultant and the date of the appointment.

If the doctor has obtained a recent consultation and is notified that the department or self-insurer is arranging an examination, he/she must immediately advise the department or self-insurer of the consultation.

### **NOTE: All referrals to psychiatrists or PhD level psychologists for consultations and evaluations require prior authorization.**

The attending doctor **may not** make a referral for a second opinion consultation if:

- an independent medical examination has been scheduled,
- claim reopening is pending, or
- the claim is closed.

## Referral conditions:

### A referral for a second opinion is **required** when:

- A complication, controversy or dispute arises over the treatment for any injured worker.

**OR**

- Care extends more than 120 days beyond the initial visit and the attending doctor requests additional treatment.

**OR**

- The insurer requests a consultation examination.

### A referral for a second opinion is **optional** when:

- The worker's accepted condition presents a diagnostic or therapeutic problem.

## What is a chiropractic consultation?

A chiropractic consultation is a second opinion examination requested by the attending doctor to clarify the diagnosis or treatment plan and performed by a chiropractic physician who is listed on the following pages.

## How does the Chiropractic Consultation Program assist attending doctors?

The chiropractors listed in the following pages have been approved to serve as consultants from June 1, 2005 through May 31, 2007. These consultants meet the education and experience requirements established by the department and the Chiropractic Advisory Committee. Additionally, they have agreed to uphold the chiropractic consultant performance and continuing education standards.

## How are IMEs different from chiropractic consultations?

An independent medical examination (IME) is an evaluation that may be:

- Requested by the claim manager of the State Fund or the self-insurer or
- May be arranged in response to a request or issue raised by the attending doctor or the employer at the time of injury.

The information may be needed to document the worker's condition so that appropriate assistance can be provided or to allow an administrative decision to be made about a claim. Approximately 80% of the IMEs are requested to establish whether the worker has reached maximum benefit from treatment and to determine any permanent impairment from the injury.

Doctors who perform IMEs and impairment ratings must be department approved IME providers.

IMEs differ from consultations in that the:

- Department's or self-insured employer's claim adjudicator must order IMEs and may ask the IME doctors to rate impairment.
- Attending doctors may ask or recommend that an independent medical examination be arranged and may request which specialties or disciplines should participate. However, the final decision regarding referral, level of examination to be performed, and participants in an IME remains with the claim adjudicator.

The department or self-insured employer may ask an attending chiropractor who is an approved IME provider to rate the impairment of a worker. If the doctor is reluctant to rate the patient, he/she may refer the worker to any chiropractor who is an approved IME provider for this service. Many of the chiropractic consultants meet the qualifications for performing Independent Medical Examinations (IMEs) and impairment ratings. Chiropractic consultants on the following pages who are also approved IME providers have an asterisk (\*) preceding their name.

**Summary:**

	Referral Source	Type of Examination	Select Examiner From:	Prior Authorization Required?
<b>Chiropractic Consultations</b>	Attending Doctor	Second Opinion	Chiropractic Consultant List or refer to a medical specialist	No
<b>Impairment Ratings</b>	Claim Adjudicator may ask an approved IME provider to rate his/her own patient. These attending doctors may choose to refer to another doctor who is an approved IME provider.	Impairment rating	*Any doctor who is an approved IME provider.	Provided by the claim adjudicator's request for an impairment rating
<b>IMEs</b>	Claim Adjudicator	IME Examination or Impairment Rating	Approved IME Provider	Provided by the referral from the claim adjudicator

**\* For more information on obtaining an impairment rating consultation, review the "Medical Examiners' Handbook". To obtain a copy, call 1-800-848-0811. (For information on how to become an L&I approved IME provider go to:**

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/Treatment/IME/BecomeIMEProv>)

**What are the chiropractic consultation billing codes?**

Only doctors listed in the following pages will be paid for chiropractic consultation (second opinion) billing codes. Approved chiropractic consultants may bill the first four levels of CPT® office consultation codes: 99241, 99242, 99243, and 99244.

**Where can I obtain more information?**

For more information on consultations refer to the "Professional Services" section of the department's "Medical Aid Rules and Fee Schedules" (fee schedule) as well as the following rules:

WAC 296-20-01002 Definitions

WAC 296-20-035 Treatment in cases that remain open beyond sixty days

WAC 296-20-045 Consultation requirements

WAC 296-20-051 Consultations

WAC 296-23-195 Chiropractic consultations

To see the fee schedule, go to <http://www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/Billing> or request a copy of the CD by calling 1-800-848-0811.

**What is the application process for becoming a chiropractic consultant?**

Every two years, the department has an open enrollment period for chiropractic consultants. In August 2006, applications will be mailed to chiropractors in Washington for the next chiropractic consultant open enrollment period. If you do not receive the application by mid September 2006, please request one by contacting [mdan235@LNI.wa.gov](mailto:mdan235@LNI.wa.gov). To be considered, the department must receive applications and all supporting documentation by November 28, 2006.

Applications are then evaluated. Successful candidates are announced the following June.

## What are the requirements for becoming a chiropractic consultant?

### Minimum Requirements:

1. Maintain a current license to practice chiropractic in the State of Washington.
2. Have an active provider number with the Department of Labor and Industries.
3. Provide proof of completing:
  - a. Not less than 180 hours of post graduate continuing education (CE) prior to application. These hours shall be from such subjects as neurology, spinal orthopedics, pectoral and pelvic girdle orthopedics, osseous roentgenology, examination methods, methods of adjusting or manipulation and human biomechanics.
  - b. 30 hours of continuing education during the year prior to submitting an application.
4. Be in active clinical practice for a minimum of 5 years with at least 2 of those years in Washington by the date the application is submitted. At least 50 percent of the doctor's practice in Washington must be devoted to patient management including treatment of injured or ill workers.
5. Demonstrate a pattern of practice consistent with the department's utilization standards and Medical Aid Rules and Maximum Fee Schedules. Applicants must be active providers in good standing with the department.
6. Complete a basic level Washington State Workers' Compensation course prior to applying for consultant status.
7. Complete the department's seminar on chiropractic consultations.

## When are the next required seminars for future chiropractic consultant applicants?

The Chiropractic Advisory Committee and the Washington State Chiropractic Association support the Department of Labor and Industries in presenting the required courses shown below. Doctors who will apply for chiropractic consultant status during the next open enrollment period (in autumn 2006) must have completed both courses before submitting their applications. Watch your mail for seminar registration brochures.

All interested parties may register to attend these classes and will receive written documentation of continuing education contact hours.

**Future Chiropractic Consultant Applicants:** If you've completed these classes in the past, there's no need to register for the sessions below.

Course Titles	Dates
Basic level workers' compensation seminar, "Reducing Your Practice Headaches: Workers' Compensation Tips for Treating Doctors"	Fall 2005 (Date and location to be announced by mail and at <a href="http://www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/Research/Courses">http://www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/Research/Courses</a> )
Chiropractic Consultation Seminar	October 2006 (Date and location to be announced by mail and at <a href="http://www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/Research/Courses">http://www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/Research/Courses</a> )

## Approved Chiropractic Consultants\*

June 1, 2005 through May 31, 2007

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**\*Denotes doctors who are also listed on the department's *Approved Examiner List*.**

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